

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052306

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R 080103Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, OTRA, TH

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROYAL THAI NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF

1. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM NAVY THAT ADMIRAL AMORN SIRIGAYA, CHIEF OF STAFF, ROYAL THAI NAVY, WILL PAY QUOTE SELF-INVITED VISIT UNQUOTE TO THE US MARCH 16-22. SIX OTHER OFFICERS INCLUDING THE THAI NAVAL ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON WILL ACCOMPANY ADMIRAL AMORN.

2. PURPOSE OF VISIT AS STATED BY THAI NAVY IS TO GAIN APPRECIATIO OF A) DEVELOPMENT OF THE PGM INCLUDING ARMA-MENTS AND ENGINE, B) DEVELOPMENT OF HARPOON AND STANDARD MISSILE SYSTEMS AND RELATED FIRE CONTROL SYSTEMS, AND C)

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PAGE 02 STATE 052306

PROJECTED AVAILABILITY OF ABOVE SYSTEMS TO ROYAL THAI

NAVY.

3. AS YOU KNOW, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT FAVOR SALE OR TRANSFER OF ADVANCED AND EXPENSIVE HARPOON WEAPON SYSTEM TO ANY SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING THAILAND. FURTHERMORE, NAVY HAS SUSPENDED SALES OF HARPOON TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND THERE IS IN PROGRESS A CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF CERTAIN WEAPONS TRANSFERS WHICH WAS INITIATED BY SENATOR MCCLELLAN. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS SUCH

AS THAILAND SHOULD BE BRIEFED ON HARPOON WITHOUT A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS NEITHER AN EXPLICIT NOR IMPLICIT COMMITMENT OF FUTURE SALES AND THAT, IN FACT, WE WOULD BE OPPOSED TO SUCH A TRANSFER IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. QUESTION OF MAKING HARPOON AVAILABLE TO THAILAND AND OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WAS ALSO ADDRESSED AT MILITARY ASSISTANCE BRIEFING FOR UNDERSECRETARY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN BANGKOK IN JANUARY AND DEPARTMENT VIEWS AGAINST SALE OR TRANSFER OF HARPOON TO THAILAND AT THIS TIME WERE STATED AT THAT BRIEFING.

4. UNLESS THIS POINT ALREADY COVERED WITH ADMIRAL AMORN AND THAI NAVY, EMBASSY MAY DESIRE TO COORDINATE WITH USMACVTHAI/JUSMAG TO ENSURE THAT THAI NAVY UNDERSTANDS SITUATION AS OUTLINED PARA 3 ABOVE. INGERSOLL

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